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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BEFORE THE HONORABLE JEFFREY S. WHITE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KENNETH MARTIN KYLE,

Defendant.

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)NO. CR 10-0914 WHA

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)SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

)Thursday, May 26, 2011

)2:46 p.m.

)

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS****(PLEA HEARING)****APPEARANCES:****For Plaintiff:****U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

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1     **May 26, 2011**

2:57 p.m.

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3                     **P R O C E E D I N G S**

4             **THE CLERK:**   Calling Criminal 10-0245, United States vs.  
5     Kenneth Martin Kyle.

6             **MR. MARTIKAN:**   Good afternoon, Your Honor.

7                     Owen Martikan for the United States.

8             **THE COURT:**   Good afternoon.

9             **MR. BIGELEISEN:**   David Michael Bigeleisen on behalf of  
10     Mr. Kyle, and Mr. Kyle is coming into the courtroom right now.

11            **THE COURT:**   Good afternoon, Mr. Kyle.

12            **THE DEFENDANT:**   Good afternoon.

13            **THE COURT:**   All right.   Has the defendant executed the  
14     plea agreement?

15            **MR. BIGELEISEN:**   Your Honor, I would like to address that.  
16     Mr. Martikan presented me with a very minor revision to the  
17     plea agreement this afternoon before we entered the courtroom.

18                     I'm prepared to submit that to the Court, but I would like  
19     to ask Mr. Martikan to recite the changes so that Mr. Kyle is  
20     informed of them, and then we can proceed with that.

21            **THE COURT:**   All right.   And to the extent that it's  
22     different than the one that the Court was given --

23            **MR. MARTIKAN:**   It's not, Your Honor.

24            **THE COURT:**   What's the change?

25            **MR. MARTIKAN:**   There are some minor changes, and I'll just

1 run through them, if I may.

2 Paragraph 1, line 24, there was an extra section signed  
3 that was removed.

4 Paragraph 6, on page 2, the phrase -- in line 27, the  
5 phrase, "Plea Agreement," was changed to "Agreement,"  
6 capitalized.

7 Page 3, paragraph 7, line 5, the word "range" was replaced  
8 with the phrase "offense level."

9 Paragraph 9, page 4, the phrase, "I agree not to violate  
10 the terms of my pretrial release," was removed, because the  
11 defendant has never been on pretrial release. And the  
12 statement that he will avoid any contact with the minor victim  
13 was added.

14 Line 8 of that same paragraph, the plural "pleas" was  
15 changed to singular "plea."

16 Page 5, paragraph 13, the phrase, "Will also," after  
17 "Eastern District of Missouri," was changed to "agrees to."  
18 The word "me" was replaced by the defendant.

19 Paragraph 14, the word "Indictment" was capitalized.

20 Paragraph 15, the word "Paragraph" was capitalized in  
21 lines 21 and 22.

22 And those are all the changes, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, those seem pretty  
24 ministerial.

25 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Certainly, Your Honor, and we're

1 operating on Mr. Martikan's representation that those are the  
2 only changes.

3 **THE COURT:** All right.

4 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** And with that, I am prepared to sign the  
5 amended plea agreement.

6 **THE COURT:** All right.

7 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** And because I haven't done this before,  
8 I'll have to ask you, Mr. Kyle, are you prepared to sign it?

9 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you.

11 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** You're welcome.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Kyle, how do you feel today?

13 **THE DEFENDANT:** Not very good.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, I'm sure it's probably not  
15 your favorite place to be, but I just meant in terms of do you  
16 feel well enough --

17 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

18 **THE COURT:** -- to understand what is going on today?

19 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. Before I could accept your guilty  
21 plea, I'm required to ask you some questions which you will be  
22 required to answer under oath, so I'm going to ask the clerk to  
23 please swear you the defendant.

24 **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand.

25 *(Defendant sworn.)*

1           **THE DEFENDANT:** I do.

2           **THE COURT:** Do you understand that you're under oath?

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

4           **THE COURT:** Do you understand that because you're under  
5 oath, you need to tell the truth? And do you understand that  
6 should you lie to the Court while you're under other, you could  
7 face additional charges?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, I understand.

9           **THE COURT:** Today I'm going to ask you some questions to  
10 make sure that you knowingly and intelligently and voluntarily,  
11 with the advice of your attorney, want to enter a guilty plea.  
12 I'm also going to ask you some questions about the crime you're  
13 pleading guilty to and you'll be required to answer those  
14 questions.

15           If you wish to consult with your attorney at any time  
16 during the proceeding, certainly before answering any  
17 questions, please tell me and I will let -- you don't even need  
18 to tell me. Just do it. Okay?

19           And if you don't understand any of my questions, then just  
20 tell me and I will rephrase the question. All right?

21           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

22           **THE COURT:** What is your full name?

23           **THE WITNESS:** Kenneth Martin Kyle.

24           **THE COURT:** What is your age?

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** Forty-seven.

1           **THE COURT:** What is the highest educational level you  
2 received.

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** Ph.D.

4           **THE COURT:** In what subject?

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** Justice studies.

6           **THE COURT:** All right. And so can I assume you can read  
7 and write in English?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

9           **THE COURT:** Now, before coming to court -- I have to ask  
10 you these questions about your wellbeing, how you're feeling  
11 today, for the purpose of determining whether you can  
12 competently waive your rights and participate.

13           So my first question is: Have you had any alcoholic  
14 beverages today?

15           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, sir.

16           **THE COURT:** Have you been treated recently for any mental  
17 illness or addiction to narcotic drugs of any kind?

18           **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Why don't you tell the judge?

19           **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm not quite sure. I have been seeing a  
20 person at the jailhouse psychiatric unit about these events.

21           **THE COURT:** All right. So is that counseling?

22           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

23           **THE COURT:** All right. And other than that, what is your  
24 answer as to whether you have been treated for taking any  
25 narcotic drugs?

1           **THE DEFENDANT:** No.

2           **THE COURT:** Within the last 24 hours, have you taken any  
3 medications, whether prescribed by a doctor or not?

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

5           **THE COURT:** And what have you taken?

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** Paxil, Remeron, blood pressure medication,  
7 and medication for prostate.

8           **THE COURT:** All right. Do any of these -- do any of these  
9 drugs, either alone or in combination with each other, have any  
10 side effects which would prevent you or interfere with your  
11 capability or your competence to fully understand the terms and  
12 conditions of the plea agreement and these proceedings?

13           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, your Honor.

14           **THE COURT:** Are you currently in any pain?

15           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, sir.

16           **THE COURT:** Are you sick in any way which would prevent  
17 you from understanding what is going on today?

18           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

19           **THE COURT:** Do you, in fact, understand what is going on?

20           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

21           **THE COURT:** Please tell me, in your own words, what you  
22 think is happening here today.

23           **THE DEFENDANT:** Today I'm here to enter a plea agreement  
24 with the United States.

25           **THE COURT:** You're here to enter a plea?

1           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

2           **THE COURT:** All right. Do you understand that you have a  
3 right to enter a not guilty plea and to persist in that plea?

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, I understand.

5           **THE COURT:** Do you understand that if you continue -- if  
6 you did enter a not guilty plea, you would have a right to a  
7 trial?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

9           **THE COURT:** Do you understand that you would have a right  
10 to a speedy and public trial by a jury consisting of 12  
11 citizens of this District?

12           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

13           **THE COURT:** Do you understand that in order for a jury to  
14 convict you, its decision must be unanimous, which means that  
15 all 12 persons must agree?

16           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

17           **THE COURT:** At this trial, you would have a right to an  
18 attorney representing you, either one retained or paid for by  
19 you. Or if you couldn't afford an attorney, then the Court  
20 would appoint an attorney, and the government would pay the  
21 cost of that attorney. Do you understand that?

22           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

23           **THE COURT:** Do you also understand that you could waive  
24 counsel and give up your right to counsel and represent  
25 yourself at trial?



1           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

2           **THE COURT:** Now, at this trial, you would be presumed  
3 innocent and the burden would always be on the government to  
4 prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you understand?

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

6           **THE COURT:** To prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt,  
7 the United States would be required to call witnesses who would  
8 appear and testify here in open court. Do you understand that?

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

10          **THE COURT:** Do you understand that you have a right to  
11 see, confront and cross-examine or ask questions of each of the  
12 government's witnesses?

13          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

14          **THE COURT:** Now, during this trial, you would also have a  
15 constitutional right to remain silent, which means that, during  
16 the trial, nobody could make or force you to call any  
17 witnesses, present any evidence, or even to cross-examine the  
18 government's witness. Do you understand that?

19          **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

20          **THE COURT:** And the fact that you chose to exercise this  
21 constitutional right to remain silent could never be held  
22 against you, and neither the judge nor the jury trying the case  
23 can infer or presume that you were guilty just because you  
24 chose to remain silent during the trial. Do you understand?

25          **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

1       **THE COURT:** On the other hand, after consulting with your  
2 attorney, you may decide that, in addition to cross-examining  
3 the government's witnesses, you and your attorney may call you  
4 as a witness, or other witnesses, and present any evidence that  
5 was allowed by federal law. Do you understand that?

6       **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

7       **THE COURT:** And if you had witnesses or evidence that you  
8 felt would help your defense and those witnesses or that  
9 evidence were not readily accessible to you, you have the right  
10 to use the subpoena powers of the Court to compel that evidence  
11 and those witnesses to come here. Do you understand that?

12       **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

13       **THE COURT:** However, the fact that you chose to present  
14 any evidence would not change the burden of proof at trial. Do  
15 you understand that the government always bears the burden of  
16 proving your guilt, beyond a reasonable doubt, on each of the  
17 charges brought against you at trial?

18       **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

19       **THE COURT:** Now, do you understand that by entering a  
20 guilty plea, you are giving up your right to have a trial?

21       **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

22       **THE COURT:** Do you understand that you're giving up your  
23 right to appeal any jury verdict of conviction since you are  
24 convicting yourself by your admission?

25       **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

1           **THE COURT:** In fact, do you understand that if I accept  
2 your guilty plea, there will be no trial?

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

4           **THE COURT:** Now, has anyone threatened you in any way to  
5 make or force you to enter a guilty plea?

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

7           **THE COURT:** Are you pleading guilty to protect anyone?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

9           **THE COURT:** Are you being paid by anyone to enter your  
10 guilty plea?

11           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

12           **THE COURT:** Now, other than this plea agreement that you  
13 apparently signed today, has anyone promised you anything in  
14 return for your guilty plea?

15           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

16           **THE COURT:** Now, you have signed and entered into a  
17 written plea agreement with the government; is that correct?

18           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

19           **THE COURT:** Did you have you opportunity to read it and  
20 discuss it with your attorney before you signed it?

21           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

22           **THE COURT:** Do you understand all the terms of the  
23 agreement?

24           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

25           **THE COURT:** Now, what I'm going to do is, Mr. Kyle, I'm

1 going to summarize the highlights verbally. But I want to  
2 make -- it's an important document --

3 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

4 **THE COURT:** -- and I want to make sure you understand it.  
5 And at the end of my summary, I'm going to ask you if I  
6 have correctly summarized the agreement. Okay?

7 **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

8 **THE COURT:** So in this agreement, you have agreed to plead  
9 guilty to count one of the indictment which charges you with  
10 aggravated sexual abuse with children, in violation of federal  
11 law. And you acknowledge your understanding of the elements of  
12 the offense.

13 You acknowledge your understanding of the maximum prison  
14 sentence which could be imposed under the statute, and it's as  
15 follows: A minimum of 30 years; a maximum of life; a maximum  
16 fine of \$250,000; a supervised release term of -- a minimum of  
17 five years, a maximum of life; a mandatory special assessment  
18 of \$100; and restitution to be determined by the Court; and  
19 registration as a sex offender.

20 Is that what you understood the possible maximum statutory  
21 sentences were?

22 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Do you have any question about  
24 that?

25 **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, one moment.

1           **THE COURT:** Go ahead, speak to your attorney.

2           **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Let me remark on what Mr. Kyle has said  
3 to me so that it will be clear before the Court.

4           Mr. Kyle said, "Well, the agreement is that it will be the  
5 minimum; is that right?"

6           And I said, "Yes, it is."

7           And that's reflected in the agreement.

8           This might also be a good time for me to remark to the  
9 Court that one of the factors taken into account by Mr. Kyle in  
10 entering into -- entering into this agreement is my statement  
11 to him that my research and my advice to him is that the  
12 minimum for the count to which he's pleading guilty is 30  
13 years, and that there are no circumstances that would allow the  
14 Court to go below that. And so I wanted to make that clear on  
15 the record.

16           **THE COURT:** All right. And just to kind of amplify in  
17 that and respond to what you said, there is an agreement of an  
18 agreed-upon sentence between you and the government. And  
19 that's part of the agreement and we're going to get to that.  
20 What this -- what I'm going over now and what this agreement  
21 goes over are basically worst case scenarios --

22           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

23           **THE COURT:** -- and what are all of the possible  
24 consequences of pleading guilty.

25           So, in order to do that, you need to know that, under the

1 statute, that the maximum sentence provided for by the statute,  
2 before we get to any agreement between you and the government,  
3 are the ones that I read. Is that understood?

4 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. And you have a right to express  
6 any question about that. That's exactly what I told you to do,  
7 and you did the right thing.

8 You agree that you're guilty of the offense to which  
9 you're pleading guilty and that certain facts are true. We  
10 will get into those in a moment.

11 You agree to give up all the rights that you would have  
12 had if this case -- if you had pled not guilty, including the  
13 ones that I have told you about and maybe others, as well, both  
14 statutory and constitutional.

15 You agree to give up your right to appeal your conviction  
16 or any related orders and judgments of the Court.

17 Oh, I did have one -- I wanted to kind of digress for a  
18 moment, because I should have asked this -- I always ask this  
19 at the beginning and I forgot.

20 That is, Mr. Martikan, has the victim of this crime or  
21 victims been notified under the Justice for All Act?

22 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Your Honor, the victim, through the state  
23 court system, has been notified. The victim is a minor.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. And what that refers to, Mr. Kyle, is  
25 under federal law, the victim has a right to weigh in on this,

1 both the plea agreement and possible sentence. And it's the  
2 government's obligation to make sure that that notification is  
3 given.

4 So continuing on with this plea agreement, my summary of  
5 it, so you give up your right to appeal your conviction or any  
6 related judgment, including you give up your right to appeal  
7 any aspect of your sentence, including any orders relating to  
8 forfeiture and restitution.

9 Now, without this agreement, you would have the right to  
10 file a -- basically an appeal to this court after you were  
11 convicted and sentenced, claiming that your conviction and/or  
12 sentence were illegally obtained.

13 Under this agreement, you give up that right, with one  
14 exception, which is the right to claim that your right to  
15 effective assistance of counsel was violated. And the reason  
16 for that is you couldn't know that now until the case is over.  
17 But with that one exception, you give up the right to bring  
18 that appeal to this court. Do you understand that?

19 **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

20 **THE COURT:** Now, you agree not to ask the Court to  
21 withdraw your guilty plea at any time after it's entered,  
22 unless the Court declines to accept the sentence agreed by the  
23 parties. And you agree that the government may withdraw from  
24 this agreement if the Court does not accept the agreed-upon  
25 sentence.

1 And you agree that if the Court does not accept the  
2 agreed-upon sentence, then the -- then, basically, you give up  
3 your right to argue that -- your rights under -- your  
4 statutory -- your statute of limitations rights were violated.

5 Now, you agree not to ask the Court for a continuance of  
6 your sentencing hearing without the consent of the government.  
7 You agree that your sentence should be calculated under the  
8 Sentencing Guidelines and under the Federal Sentencing Law in  
9 such a way that your adjusted offense level would be 39.

10 Now, under that -- what that means, under the guidelines,  
11 is that if you are, under the guidelines, Offense Level 39, if  
12 you had no criminal background, criminal record, et cetera, and  
13 you were at a Criminal History Category I, you would be facing  
14 262 to 327 months.

15 But if you had a substantial criminal history and you were  
16 a VI, it would be 360 months to life.

17 The guidelines re not binding on the Court, but what is  
18 binding on the Court is what is provided in the statute. And  
19 the statute provides for a minimum sentence of 30 years or 360  
20 months, and that trumps the guidelines. Do you understand  
21 that?

22 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. Now, you agree that a reasonable  
24 and appropriate disposition of this case, under the guidelines  
25 and under the Federal Sentencing Statute is as follows: A



1 sentence of 360 months imprisonment; ten years of supervised  
2 release, with conditions to be fixed by the Court; \$200 special  
3 assessment; and \$50,000 restitution.

4 And Mr. Martikan, is there an agreement as to who that  
5 restitution would go to? Would it go to the child victim?

6 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Yes.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. And you agree that you will make a  
8 good faith effort to pay that monetary forfeiture or  
9 restitution and will provide truthful information about your  
10 ability to do so to the Court and associated agencies. You  
11 agree not to commit or attempt to commit any crime before  
12 sentence is imposed or before you surrender at sentence, and  
13 not to provide intentionally any false information to the Court  
14 or any of its relevant services, and not to fail to comply with  
15 any other promises you made in the agreement. And you'll make  
16 no attempt to contact the victim in this case.

17 Do you agree that if you fail to comply with any promises  
18 you made in the agreement, then the government would be  
19 released from all of its promises in the agreement, including  
20 those that we're about to get to, and you would not be released  
21 from your guilty plea. And you agree to forfeit your interest  
22 in specific property, all of which is set forth in the plea  
23 agreement, basically, the computer, related materials, and a  
24 cellular phone. It's all laid out there.

25 And you admit that the property was used to produce,

1 receive or possess visual depictions of minors engaged in  
2 sexually-explicit conduct and is forfeitable to the United  
3 States under the federal law. And you give up your right to  
4 that property, and you waive any right to challenge the  
5 forfeiture of those materials and devices.

6 And you agree that the agreement contains all of the  
7 promises between you and the government and you will not claim  
8 otherwise in the future, and you agree that this agreement  
9 binds the U. S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of  
10 California and the Eastern District of Missouri and does not  
11 bind any other federal, state or local agency.

12 Now, the government, for its part, moves to dismiss any  
13 open charges against you in the indictment at sentencing.

14 The Eastern District of Missouri agrees to dismiss the  
15 pending charges against you in the case bearing your name in  
16 the Eastern District of Missouri in a docket number that's  
17 listed there after you're sentenced in the Northern District of  
18 California.

19 The government agrees not to file any additional charges  
20 against you that could be filed as a result of the  
21 investigation that led to the indictment.

22 The government agrees that a reasonable and appropriate  
23 sentence in this case is the one that I have mentioned before,  
24 unless you violate the agreement, this agreement, in any  
25 fashion, or fail to accept responsibilities for your actions.

1           The government agrees to recommend that the terms of  
2 imprisonment in this case run concurrently with any sentence  
3 imposed upon you arising out of the currently pending charges,  
4 state charges, in St. Louis, Missouri.

5           And you confirm that you have adequate time to discuss the  
6 case with your attorney and consider it, and that you are  
7 competent to enter into the agreement.

8           So that concludes the Court's summary.

9           Has the Court accurately summarized the agreement?

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

11          **THE COURT:** Has anyone made any additional or different  
12 promises to you?

13          **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

14          **THE COURT:** Now, Mr. Bigeleisen, I'm going to ask you some  
15 questions about the agreement, and Mr. Kyle, I'm going to ask  
16 you to listen to your attorney's answers because I'm going to  
17 ask you to comment.

18          Sir, does your signature appear on page 6 of the  
19 agreement?

20          **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes.

21          **THE COURT:** Have you discussed the plea agreement  
22 thoroughly and completely with your client, including the  
23 provision regarding waiver of appeal?

24          **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes.

25          **THE COURT:** Have you discussed with your client each of

1 the elements of each count to which your client is pleading  
2 guilty?

3 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes.

4 **THE COURT:** Have you answered all of Mr. Kyle's questions  
5 about the plea agreement?

6 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes.

7 **THE COURT:** In your opinion, does your client understand  
8 his plea agreement in its entirety, including the provision for  
9 waiver of appeal?

10 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes.

11 **THE COURT:** Do you agree -- turning back to you, Mr. Kyle,  
12 do you agree with those answers?

13 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** Now, do you understand that the offense to  
15 which you're pleading guilty is a felony?

16 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** And if you're adjudged guilty of a felony,  
18 then you would lose certain civil rights. One would be your  
19 right to possess a firearm and you may lose other rights such  
20 as the right to vote, the right to hold public office or to  
21 serve on a jury. Do you understand that?

22 **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

23 **THE COURT:** Now, under this plea agreement, this type of  
24 plea agreement, I want to give you some more background about  
25 this. So you and the government have agreed to a certain

1 sentence and also that certain charges would be dismissed. Do  
2 you understand that?

3 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** Now, if I accept the agreement, then I'm bound  
5 to sentence you in accordance with the agreement. Do you  
6 understand that?

7 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

8 **THE COURT:** But if I decide after receiving the  
9 presentence report to reject the agreement, then certain things  
10 happen. First, I will tell you in open court that I have  
11 rejected the agreement. And then you have options.

12 Your options are to move to withdrawn your guilty plea,  
13 which I will allow you to do -- it would not be a violation of  
14 the agreement -- and go to trial or attempt to negotiate a  
15 different agreement with the government, which might be  
16 acceptable to the Court, although the Court doesn't participate  
17 in plea negotiations; it's not allowed. Or you can maintain  
18 your guilty plea, knowing the Court rejected the agreement, and  
19 then the Court could sentence you to any lawful sentence up to  
20 life imprisonment. Do you understand that?

21 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** And I'm going to -- as I have mentioned, I'm  
23 going to reserve ruling on whether to accept or reject the  
24 agreement, until I get more information about you that's  
25 relevant to that determination.

1           So you understand what all of the options are?

2           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes. Yes, Your Honor.

3           **THE COURT:** Now, have you -- now, do you understand that  
4 the sentence imposed by the Court may be different than any  
5 estimate your attorney may have given to you, ultimately? Do  
6 you understand that? What that means is, let's say the Court  
7 rejects the plea agreement.

8           I don't know what I'm going to do next. I don't have any  
9 more information on you. But let's say I reject the plea  
10 agreement. You could ultimately get more time in prison than  
11 you agreed, or theoretically, less time -- not under this  
12 charge. You couldn't get less time, but you could get more  
13 time.

14           And so that's why I asked you if you understand that if  
15 those things happen, if I reject the agreement and if you are  
16 convicted at trial or pursuant to another plea agreement, you  
17 could wind up getting more time in prison than you have agreed  
18 to. Do you understand that?

19           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

20           **THE COURT:** Now, do you understand that, under our system  
21 of justice, parole has been abolished. And if you're sentenced  
22 to prison, you will not be released on parole.

23           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

24           **THE COURT:** Now, do you understand --

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** Your Honor, may I ask a question?

1           **THE COURT:** Sure. Please do.

2           **THE DEFENDANT:** If parole were to be reinstated at some  
3 point in the future, how would that affect me?

4           **THE COURT:** Well, that's -- nobody has ever asked me that  
5 question.

6           First of all, I would say it's extremely unlikely because  
7 we have been under this system of no parole and truth in  
8 sentencing for many, many years. When we had a parole system,  
9 it was viewed as flawed. Congress made a decision to abolish  
10 it.

11           If it were reinstated, it would not be clear -- there is  
12 no way to determine whether it would be prospective, for people  
13 charged after that, or retrospective.

14           The thing is, however, in pleading guilty, you should  
15 assume that you are not going to be released on parole. It's  
16 called, by some people, "Truth in sentencing." You get what  
17 you are you sentenced to. Do you understand that?

18           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

19           **THE COURT:** But it's certainly a fair question.

20           So have you received a copy of the indictment in this  
21 case?

22           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

23           **THE COURT:** Do you understand what you're charged with?

24           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

25           **THE COURT:** Now, for the record, I'll ask the United

1 States Attorney to please present the elements of the charged  
2 offense.

3 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Thank you, Your Honor. The elements of a  
4 violation of Title 18 United States Code Section 2241(c) are  
5 first that the defendant knowingly crossed a state line;  
6 second, with the intent to engage in a sexual act with a person  
7 who had not attained -- who has not attained the age of 12.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. Do you understand the elements of  
9 the offense with which you're charged?

10 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Have you fully discussed the charge and the  
12 case in general with Mr. Bigeleisen, your counsel?

13 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** Have you had enough time to discuss the  
15 possible defenses of your sentence?

16 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** Please tell me in your own words what you  
18 think you're charged with.

19 **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm being charged with crossing the line,  
20 going to Missouri, and engaging in a lewd act with a child  
21 under the age of 12.

22 **THE COURT:** All right. Do you understand that the maximum  
23 penalties that could be imposed are the ones that I have  
24 summarized from the plea agreement?

25 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.



1           **THE COURT:** And do you understand that the Court is also  
2 required to order you to make restitution to any victim who may  
3 have sustained a loss based upon your crime, unless the Court  
4 gives specific reasons on the record for not ordering you to do  
5 so.

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

7           **THE COURT:** And do you understand that if the Court  
8 sentences you to conditions of supervised release and you  
9 violate any of those, you can be given additional time in  
10 prison?

11          **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

12          **THE COURT:** Mr. Martikan, are there any other consequences  
13 such as the requirement for registration as a sex offender?

14          **MR. MARTIKAN:** There are -- well, there is that  
15 requirement, but none other than that.

16          **THE COURT:** All right. Do you understand that that is  
17 another consequence?

18          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

19          **THE COURT:** All right. So do you understand all of the  
20 possible consequences of your guilty plea?

21          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

22          **THE COURT:** Now, because in court, in any court,  
23 especially in this court, we don't want anybody pleading guilty  
24 who is not guilty or believes they're not guilty, I always ask  
25 the following question directly to the defendant even though

1 there are facts agreed to in here: Did you commit the crime  
2 you're pleading guilty to?

3 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** Please tell me what you did.

5 **THE DEFENDANT:** I met with my co-defendant. We met online  
6 and began a relationship. And during one of my visits to her,  
7 we engaged in a lewd act with a child.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. You and your co-defendant?

9 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

10 **THE COURT:** All right. And where did you travel from and  
11 to, to do that?

12 **THE DEFENDANT:** From the San Francisco area to St. Louis,  
13 Missouri.

14 **THE COURT:** Now, in addition to what you have admitted to,  
15 which is a basis for a conviction, I'm going to ask the  
16 government to tell you and the Court what it would be prepared  
17 to prove if this case went to trial, so you understand what  
18 you're facing one more time.

19 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Thank you, Your Honor. If this case were  
20 to go to trial, the government would be prepared to prove that,  
21 in at least August of 2009, the defendant traveled from San  
22 Francisco, California, to St. Louis, Missouri, and did so with  
23 the intent of engaging in a sexual act with a minor whom he  
24 knew was not -- was younger than 12 years of age. And by  
25 "sexual act," we mean the acts described -- one or more of the

1 acts described in Title 18 United States Code Section 2246,  
2 Paragraph 2.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. You have heard what the government  
4 said it would be able to prove if this case went to trial?

5 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** Are the facts that the government just stated  
7 substantially correct?

8 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** Are there any corrections you wish to make to  
10 those?

11 **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** Are you pleading guilty because you're, in  
13 fact, guilty of the charge?

14 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Now, you've been represented in this case by  
16 Mr. Bigeleisen; is that correct?

17 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor?

18 **THE COURT:** Has your attorney given you all of the legal  
19 advice that you have needed or wanted?

20 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Has your attorney done anything that you  
22 previously objected to or object to now?

23 **THE DEFENDANT:** No, Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** Are you satisfied with the legal  
25 representation your attorney has provided to you?

1           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, Your Honor.

2           **THE COURT:** Now, do you need to obtain any further legal  
3 advice from your attorney now before the Court takes your  
4 guilty plea? In other words, do you want to talk with your  
5 attorney one more time before we go forward?

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** May I have one second?

7           **THE COURT:** Yes.

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** That's fine.

9           **THE COURT:** All right. So, with all of the consequences  
10 of pleading guilty in mind, Mr. Kyle, how do you plead to count  
11 one of the indictment, which charges you with aggravated sexual  
12 abuse with children, in violation of 18 United States Code  
13 Section 2241(c), guilty or not guilty?

14           **THE DEFENDANT:** Guilty, Your Honor.

15           **THE COURT:** All right. The Court finds that the defendant  
16 has knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently, with the advice  
17 of his attorney, entered a guilty plea.

18           The Court further finds that the elements required to  
19 support a conviction under the charged statute have been  
20 satisfied.

21           The Court further finds that there is a sufficient factual  
22 basis to support the plea. Therefore, the Court accepts the  
23 guilty plea.

24           But as I mentioned I would, Mr. Kyle, I'm going to reserve  
25 ruling on whether to accept the agreement, pending completion

1 of a presentence report which I will now order.

2 So, Madam Clerk, would you please set a date?

3 **THE COURT:** August 11th, at 2:00, Your Honor.

4 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** May I check my calendar, please?

5 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Your Honor, it's very likely I'll be in  
6 trial before Judge Illston that week.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. Does she sit -- do you know what  
8 hours she sits?

9 Why don't we do this? Why don't we set it. You know,  
10 I've noted the fact that you have a trial. And if it doesn't  
11 work out, we can continue the date. But given what happens  
12 with trials and schedules, we might as well set it. And then  
13 if we need to move it one way or the other, we can do that --

14 **MR. MARTIKAN:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** -- so long as the presentence is completed.  
16 Is that acceptable to you, Mr. Bigeleisen?

17 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Yes, it is.

18 **THE COURT:** Will that give enough time -- is there going  
19 to be a return? Is the defendant going to be returned to  
20 Missouri, or is that going to await the outcome of this case?

21 **MR. MARTIKAN:** I expect it to await the outcome of this  
22 case, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** All right. And I'm going to want to see a  
24 couple of things from the parties, especially from the  
25 government. I'm going to want a statement from the victim. I

1 want an impact statement of the victim in this case, or  
2 somebody on her behalf, somebody who has evaluated her.

3 And I'm also going to want to hear from both sides why the  
4 Court should accept this agreement, because given what little  
5 the Court knows about the case from the litigation in this  
6 case, the Court is concerned about whether this sentence is  
7 appropriate for this defendant and is severe enough for this  
8 defendant.

9 So I'm not prejudging anything, except to say that the  
10 parties -- both sides know -- Mr. Martikan certainly knows --  
11 that this Court does not feel that a (c)(1)(C) provides any  
12 kind of mandate to accept these agreements. And I carefully  
13 evaluate each one for the public interest, and I'm going to  
14 want to know, as I am in every case -- I expect the parties to  
15 have in their report why the Court should accept this  
16 disposition, which -- about which, on the face of it, seems to  
17 be too lenient for the Court. So I would like to hear a lot  
18 more.

19 But again, I'm just giving you a heads up that I want to  
20 know more about the case, more than normal, so I can justify  
21 what I'm going to do in this pretty heinous case.

22 All right?

23 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Your Honor, I would like to ask for  
24 permission to speak, and I'll tell you --

25 **THE COURT:** Please.

1           **MR. BIGELEISEN:** -- what the subject is that I'm going to  
2 speak on, and that is that -- and you may say, "Speak now or  
3 keep your piece."

4           But I would offer one very small bit of information that  
5 I'll offer again as to why the Court should accept the plea, if  
6 you're interested in entertaining it right now?

7           **THE COURT:** Well, I think not, and I say that without  
8 prejudice because it's a little bit in a vacuum and some time  
9 is going to pass. I would like to have all the information in  
10 writing, so you can consider exact -- carefully choose your  
11 words; I can evaluate it all at one time.

12           I will certainly listen to and evaluate everything that  
13 you say and everything the government says and everything that  
14 Mr. Kyle says or those who want to speak on his behalf.

15           Normally, I wouldn't hear about that now because it would  
16 not have the impact, and I think it needs repeated again. I  
17 know that you want your client to know that there is -- you  
18 know, there is another side to the story, and I'm certainly  
19 willing to listen to it.

20           I'm just alerting you of my practice generally, which is  
21 to carefully evaluate these. Because the Supreme Court has  
22 given a lot of discretion back to the Courts, and (c)(1)(C)  
23 takes that discretion away. I take that seriously, and I have  
24 to evaluate each agreement on the merits.

25           So you will have a full opportunity. All right? Anything

1 further?

2 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Thank you very much, Your Honor.

3 **MR. MARTIKAN:** No, Your Honor.

4 **MR. BIGELEISEN:** Thank you, Mr. Martikan.

5 *(Hearing adjourned at 3:32 p.m.)*

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, a certified shorthand reporter, and were thereafter transcribed under my direction into typewriting; that the foregoing is a full, complete and true record of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties in the foregoing proceedings and caption named, or in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

The fee charged and the page format for the transcript conform to the regulations of the judicial conference.

Furthermore, I certify the invoice does not contain charges for the salaried court reporter's certification page.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of August 2012.

/s/ Margo Gurule

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Margo Gurule, CSR